

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Ferry Farm House Inventory Number: T-187
Address: _____ Historic district: yes ☒ X no
City: Trappe Zip Code: _____ County: Talbot
USGS Quadrangle(s): Cambridge
Property Owner: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____
Project: Section 106 Agency: DOT/FHWA
Agency Prepared By: _____
Preparer's Name: _____ Date Prepared: _____
Documentation is presented in: federal files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ X no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*
[no info on form]

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments: Federal DOE

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Monday, May 19, 1980

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ferry Farm house

AND/OR COMMON

Boling Brooke

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Ferry Farm Road, 200 yards east of U.S. Route 50

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Trappe

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Talbot

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dorrance R. Smith

Telephone #: (301-228-8455)

STREET & NUMBER

Boling Brooke

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21673

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber: 390

Folio: 219

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland

21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Z DESCRIPTION

T-187

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ferry Farm house is situated between Bolinbroke Creek on the east, and Read's Cove and Porpoise Creek on the west, near the northern end of the Choptank River Bridge, overlooking the broad waters of the Choptank and Cambridge beyond. It is an early 18th century, frame, gambrel roof dwelling with a large, 20th century, gambrel roof wing.

The old house is three bays long and two bays deep, and built on a brick basement. The bricks are large and laid in English bond, the brickwork resembling early 18th century work on the Eastern Shore. The walls of the houses are covered with plain weatherboard and the windows of the first story have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. Those above have 6/6 sash. Each facade has a central entrance, the south entrance with transom. A large 20th century chimney is built onto the west gable and another within the east gable. There is a leanto porch on part of the north side.

The interior presently consists of a central stair hall with a living room on the west and dining room and kitchen on the east. The stair is a good, first half of the 18th century one, and the east rooms retain some early woodwork. In these rooms the major posts protrude from the walls and are encased in fluted pilasters of rather crude design, similar to the fluting at White Marshes up river several miles.

From evidence in the basement, specifically the bases of the original chimneys, it is apparent that the east side was a single room and the west side had two rooms with corner fireplaces when the house was first built. The change to the present floor plan was probably made in the 1940's, when the wing was added. The wing is about 1-1/3 times the size of the original house, with dissimilar fenestration.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ferry Farm house is significant architecturally because it is one of the earliest gambrel roof dwellings in the county. It is important for its original first half 18th century woodwork and original floor plan. The plan is similar to Back Creek Mill house, Cecil County.

Ferry Farm house ranks as the focus of one of the earliest economic enterprises in the county, the terminus of a ferry across the Great Choptank River to Dorchester County, and what is now the City of Cambridge.

According to the Rent Rolls of 1708, "Bullen" was surveyed for 800 acres for Henry Bullen in 1659. The property lay on the north side of the Choptank River, adjoining the lands of Thomas Read and Read's Creek. According to this tax assessment, Henry Bullen owned and possessed 390 acres. Henry had inherited this part of "Bullen" through a division of his mother's estate. By 1670 Naomi Mackey had been widowed three times in ten years. She made a gift deed of her properties to her four sons, Henry Bullen, Thomas (probably Larrimore), and Hezekiah and William Mackey. They shared equally in the distribution.

Henry started selling acreage from "Bullen" in 1706, when Thomas Barnett paid him 10,000 pounds of tobacco for 100 acres along Read's Creek (10/49). The following year, he made the first of three sales to Thomas Taylor. The first two were for acreage only, 290 acres in all (11/32) (11/73). In 1709 Bullen sold 130 acres to Taylor with houses, outhouses, etc. Taylor immediately sold the entire 250 acres to William Troth for £100. This price would not indicate that there was any substantial sort of house on the property. Following Troth's death in 1712, his daughter, Judith, the wife of Samuel Dickinson of neighboring "Croisadore," inherited this part of her father's estate.

It is impossible to say when and by whom, this house was built. Henry Bullen was granted a ferry across the Choptank from Bullen's plantation, in 1722. Whether he ever ran this ferry is unknown. It is known that a house was built in the town of Trappe, early in the 18th century by a member of the Dickinson family and there is a resemblance to this house as both had gambrel roofs. We know that the Troth/Dickinson families owned this property from 1709 until 1768. At that time, James Dickinson sold the tract called "Bullen" and "Bullen's Addition" to William Akers for £1050 current money. This considerable price would indicate that the Ferry Farm house was standing at this time. We also know from many deeds in which the description includes "on the road to Akers Farm," that there is no doubt that William Akers ran the ferry across the Choptank River to Dorchester County.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Ferry Farm house
Talbot County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

Local tradition has it that he used his home as an inn or ordinary, as well. We do know that Akers was a planter and merchant. In 1786 he sold a sloop, "The Mayflower," "riding at anchor in the Choptank River," to John and James King (23/136). We also know that he increased the size of his property in 1783 by adding 150 acres adjoining "my now dwelling plantation" from Thomas Barnett, the heir of his father, who had bought this land in 1706 (21/279).

Akers ran his ferry and other enterprises until the early 19th century. He was listed in the 1798 Tax Assessment as owner and occupant of a frame dwelling, 38' X 27'. The kitchen measured 35' X 16'. William Akers is also credited, in the 1783 Tax Roll, with 320 acres on the Choptank River and Ferry. The premises included a dwelling house, meat house, tobacco house, kitchen, logged dwelling (later occupied by his son, Daniel), woods, etc., valued at £827.

There is no record of the exact date of William Akers' death. Distribution of his estate was not made until 1812 (JP B/322). He left his widow, Ann, and a son, Daniel. His daughter, Sarah, had married James Saunders, but was deceased by this time, as was his son, Harrison. There were grandchildren bearing the name Abbott.

In 1809 (33/165) William Jenkins paid \$5,000 to James Saunders and his wife, Sarah Akers Saunders, for two parcels of land. These were incorporated into the farm of Alexander Bowdle in 1869 (75/458).

Bowdle had made his first purchase in the area in 1843, when he bought 107½ acres from the widow of John W. Jenkins, Mary Elizabeth, and her new husband, Solomon Mullikin, Jr., which they owned by right of inheritance (57/306). He added another portion in 1845 (57/392). In 1847 Bowdle married Sarah Emily Kirby, and they made the old "Ferry Farm" their home. He left no will, but hers was probated in 1895 (14/402), and indicated that she had had a home built in the town of Trappe. This she left to her son, "who assisted in building my home," and his children. To her daughter, Nannie B. Highley, she left her farm in Ferry Neck of 160 acres, and a house and lot on the north side of the public road in Ferry Neck. After the natural life of her daughter, the property was to go to her grandson, Alexander Bowdle Highley.

Highley divided his inherited farm into building lots. By the terms of his will (31/386, 1960), a part of the farm, now known as Cambridge Ferry Farm, was sold to Dorrance R. Smith and his wife, Betty Ann, in 1963 (390/219). The Smiths bought the house "as is," since there had been a fire in the roof. They made the necessary repairs and other improvements, so that it is comfortable for modern living, yet retains some interesting features of its long history.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

T-187

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BYNAME / TITLE Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant
Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

1km

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical TrustDATE 1977STREET & NUMBER 21 State CircleTELEPHONE (301) 269-2438CITY OR TOWN AnnapolisSTATE Maryland 21401**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

T-187

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

Ferry Farm house
Talbot County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES -

Land and Probate Records of Talbot County, Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

Tax Assessment of 1783, Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Microfilm, Talbot County Library, Easton, Maryland.

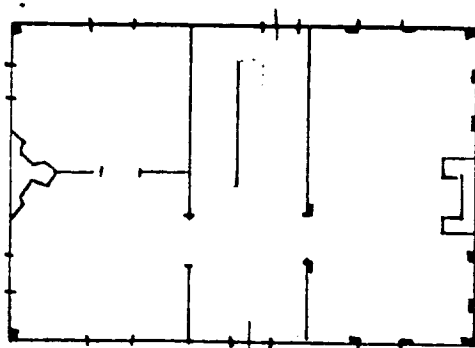
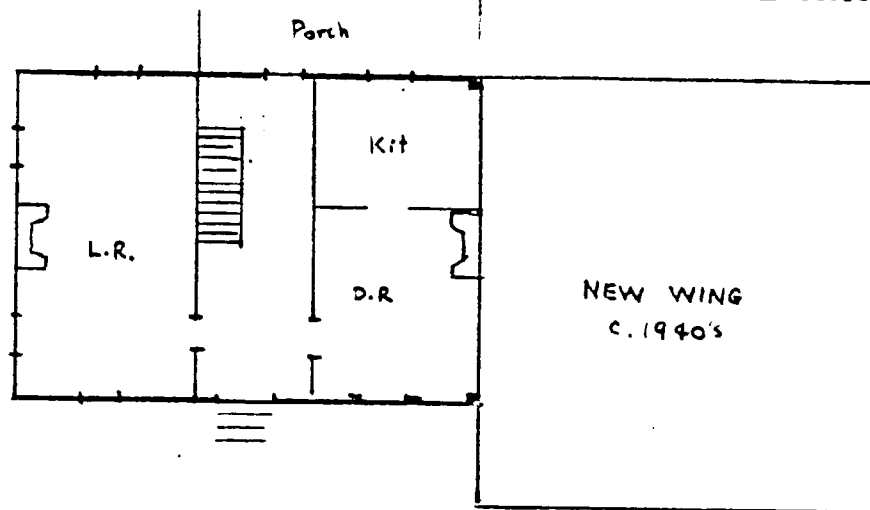
Rent Rolls, Talbot County. Manuscript copy by Howard Mullikin, Talbot County Library, Easton, Maryland, p.4.

Forman, H. C. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland, by the author, 1934, p. 183.

Preston, Dickson. Trappe, The Story of an Old Fashioned Town. Easton, Maryland. Economy Printing Co., 1976, p. 8.

Wilson, E. B. Maryland's Colonial Mansions, New York: A.S. Barnes, 1965, p. 79.

- THIS PLAN FOR ILLUSTRATION OF TEXT ONLY
- IT IS NOT A MEASURED DRAWING
- PROPERTY OF MICHAEL BOURNE NOT TO BE REPRODUCED
LEST MORE ARCHITECTURAL ERRORS BE PROPAGATED.



CONJECTURAL
ORIGINAL PLAN
From evidence
IN BASEMENT

FERRY FARM or Bolina Broke
Talbot Co.
No scale
M.B. - 1/100

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2101275804
T-187

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ferry Farm House

AND/OR COMMON

Boling Brooke

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ferry Farm Rd., 200 yds east of Rt. 50 (south)

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

— YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— MILITARY

— OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dorance Smith

Telephone #:(301) 228-8455

STREET & NUMBER

Boling Brooke

CITY, TOWN

Trappe

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21673

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 390

Folio #: 219

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ferry Farm House is situated near the northern end of the Choptank River Bridge overlooking the broad waters of the Choptank and Cambridge beyond. It is an early 18th century frame, gambrel roof dwelling with a large 20th century gambrel roof wing. The latter is not to be described herein.

The old house is three bays long and two bays deep and is built upon a brick basement. The bricks are large and laid in English bond, the brickwork resembling early 18th century work on the Eastern Shore. The walls of the house are covered with plain weatherboard and the windows of the first story have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. Those above have 6/6 sash. Each facade has a central entrance, the south entrance with transom. A large 20th century chimney is built onto the west gable and another within the east gable. There is a leanto porch on part of the north side.

The interior presently consists of a central stair hall with a living room on the west and dining room and kitchen on the east. The stair is a good first half 18th century stair, and the east rooms retain some early woodwork.

From evidence in the basement, namely the bases of the original chimneys, it is apparent that the east side was a single room and the west side had two rooms with corner fireplaces.

In the east rooms the major posts protrude from the walls and are encased in a fluted pilaster of rather crude design similar to the fluting of White Marshes up river several miles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ferry Farm House is significant architecturally because it is one of the earliest gambrel roof dwellings in the County. It is important for its original first half 18th century woodwork and unusual floor plan. The plan is similar to Back Creek Mill House, Cecil County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Forman, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses....., 1934, p. 183.
 Wilson, E.B., Maryland's Colonial Mansions, A.S. Barnes, New York,
 1965, p. 79.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

DATE

March, 1977

TELEPHONE

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

TRAPPE

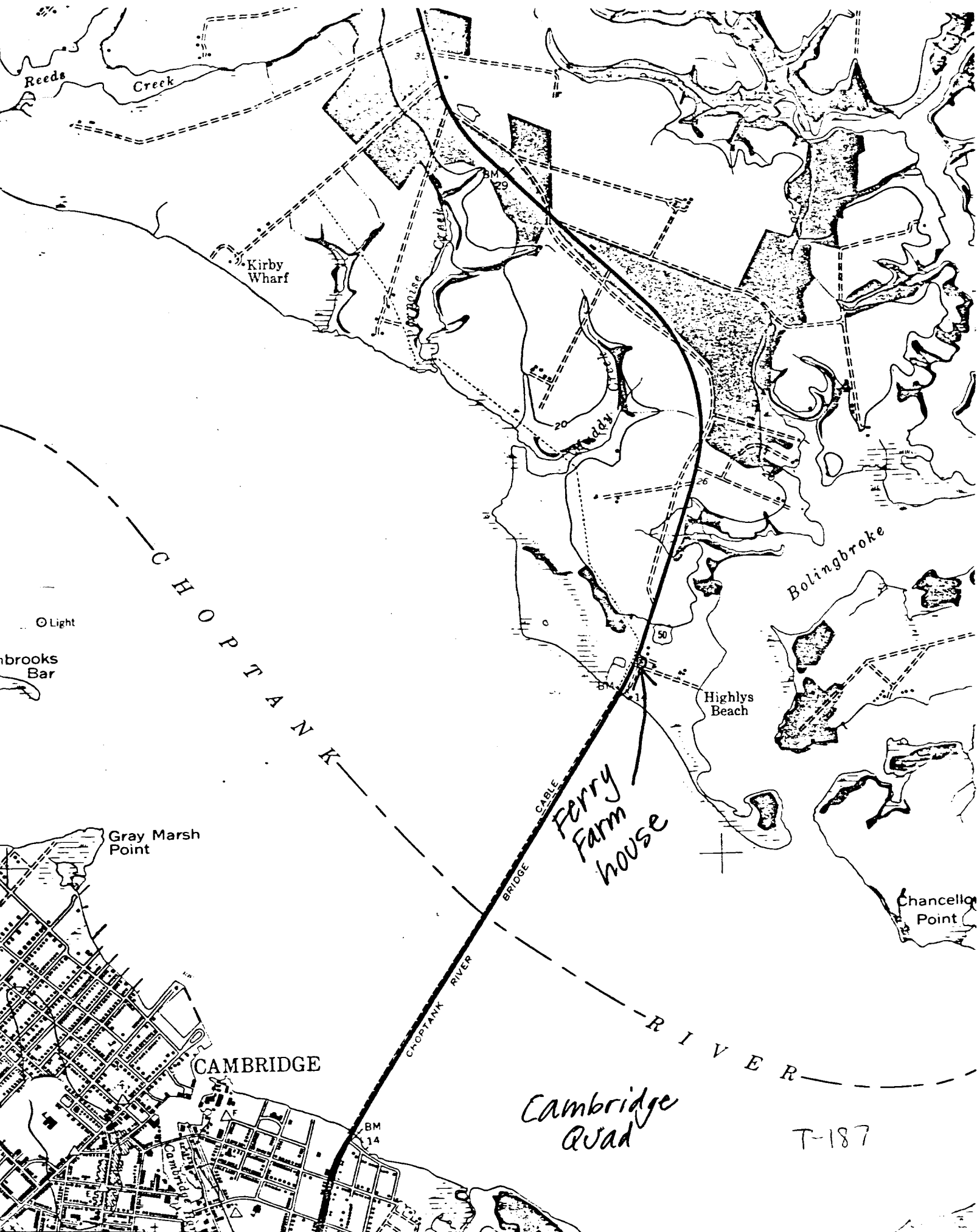
Dist. No 3

TALBOT CO.

Lake, Griffing, Stevenson
1877 ATLAS

T-187





Reeds Creek

Kirby Wharf

Bolingbroke

Highlys Beach

Chancellor Point

Gray Marsh Point

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Road

T-187



15x1.44

75%

187

Ferry Farm House

T- 187



S.

M. Bourne 3/77